

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
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R 200841Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3078
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 0214

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, UV
SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0157

1. FINANCE MINISTER KALMOGO ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM
WITH COLONEL ROBERTSON OF PAAI MORNING JANUARY 19.
ALSO PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSION WERE ANTOINE YAMEOGO,
FORMER IMF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND MS RAZI OF PAAI.

2. KALMOGO BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY
THAT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WOULD SIGN LETTER TO BADEA
REQUESTING \$10 MILLION LOAN. HE SAID THAT PAAI HAD
BEEN UNWISE TO GET PRESIDENT INVOLVED SINCE PRESIDENT
HAD NO TIME TO STUDY THE PROJECT AND DEPENDED ON HIS
MINISTERS TO ADVISE HIM ON THE MATTER. HE CRITICIZED
FORMER MINISTER OF PLAN BOUBACAR SOUMANA WHOM, HE SAID,
HAD NOT DONE HIS HOMEWORK. KALMOGO ADDED THAT
PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAD NOW ASKED HIM TO COORDINATE
THE PRESENTATION OF THE PAAI PROJECT TO THE NEW
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE SAID HE WOULD WORK AS
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QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BUT COULD NOT POSSIBLY MEET
THE DEADLINE SET BY UK GOVERNMENT FOR PURCHASE OF
BELFAST AIRCRAFT.

3. ROBERTSON COUNTERED THAT PAAI HAD BID
IN GOOD FAITH ON BELFAST AIRCRAFT ON STRENGTH OF
CONVENTION SIGNED LAST AUGUST BETWEEN PAAI AND GOUV.

KALMOGO COUNTERED THAT CONVENTION AND ACCOMPANYING PROTOCOLS HAD TO BE RATIFIED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS MUCH IN PAAI PROJECT WHICH COULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE TO UPPER VOLTA, ESPECIALLY IF VOLTAN ECONOMY COULD BE ASSURED OF AMPLE AIR FREIGHT FACILITIES AT REASONABLE RATES. HE ADDED THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, HE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE PROJECT BUT THAT MANY ANGLES HAD TO BE STUDIED THOROUGHLY, INCLUDING UPPER VOLTA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR AFRIQUE, BEFORE PROJECT COULD BE SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH ANY CHANCE OF APPROVAL.

4. AT THIS POINT, ROBERTSON LEFT US TO CATCH HIS PLANT TO PARIS. HE PLANS TO GO TO LONDON TO COORDINATE PAAI'S EFFORTS TO RAISE ON ITS OWN THE \$5 MILLION REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE OF BELFAST AIRCRAFT.

5. COMMENT: AT LEAST ROBERSTON KNOWS WHERE HE STANDS. HE FEELS THAT ALL IS NOT LOST AND IS SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT KALMOGO, WHO IS A VERY ABLE AND ENERGETIC YOUNG MAN, IS NOW IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT. FROM CERTAIN REMARKS MADE BY KALMOGO, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO UPPER VOLTA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR AFRIQUE, I SUSPECT THAT FRENCH, THROUGH UTA, HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON GOUV, OR AT LEAST ON SOME OF THE MINISTERS, TO DELAY A DECISION ON PAAI.

GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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